

KZN SCOUT TRAIL

JANUARY TO APRIL 2013



REPORTING SCOUTING VIEWS AND NEWS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOR OVER 60 YEARS

BP SUNDAY A GREAT SUCCESS AT RICHARDS BAY. REPORTS LIZ WOOD, 1ST RICHARDS BAY GROUP SCOUTER.

Our District, Zululand had a truly fantastic Scouting Sunday celebrating BP's birthday with a service in a packed Scout hall followed by lots of fun activities. 1st Richards Bay Sea Scout Group had the pleasure of hosting BP Sunday on 24th February at our Scout Hall and were joined on this festive day by Scout Commissioner Jethro Hlope, his Assistants and Scouts (boys and girls) of the Grantham Park School in Empangeni. What a well organised group. From the moment they arrived on the bus and other transport until they left in the afternoon their good manners, friendliness and behaviour was a real pleasure to be part of.

You can surely feel very proud of these wonderful Scouts and their Leaders. We hope to see them again in the very near future and look forward to establishing a lasting Scouting relationship with them.



A packed 1st Richards Bay scout hall gather for BP Sunday.



The Zululand District pose for a group photo just after the BP Sunday service.

BP CAMP 2013 NORTHERN NATAL

Almost 80 Ladysmith, Newcastle and Vryheid Scouts and Cubs attended the Northern Natal BP camp at the end of February, held this year on a nature reserve in the Elandsplaagte area north of Ladysmith. This camp, hosted by Groups at a different venue every year to celebrate BPs birthday, serves as a gathering for the widely spread Scouts of Northern Natal. This year both Scouts and Cubs took part in a hike to practice mapping skills. Each scout Patrol started at a different point on the circular route, and was responsible for finding their way around the 20 km trail.

Map reading and compass skills were severely tested with most of the patrols getting lost at some stage during the hike, much to the amusement of the Scouters monitoring proceedings from the five bases set up on the route. The Scouts were exposed to a number of exercises and STAs, including a variety of bird and plant identification tasks. All elements of the Scout craft mapping badge were examined along the route and Patrols experienced mapping exercises in the most practical way possible.

While this was underway the Cubs hiked a shorter circular route, ending up in a number of mountain streams. The experience of being away from home, and experiencing the sound and smells of Africa has left an indelible positive imprint on all the young minds taking part in the event, and friendships established over the years were again cemented. The newly revitalized Vryheid Group took part in their second camp, and are now firmly established as active members of the NN District, thanks to the tremendous work by Wolf and Mustang. The Cubs are also thriving under the guidance of Elize.

Thanks to all the Scouters of NN and the committee of 1st Ladysmith for logistical support. The event will continue to be held every year, even if it doesn't rain!



Ladysmith and Newcastle Cubs building their cities of the future.



3rd Newcastle Cubs and Scouts looking good in their Scout shirts.



1st Ladysmith Cubs and Scouts rearing to go on their hike.



1st Vryheid excited about doing their mapping badge



Cubs own with 1st Ladysmith Lions in charge

BP SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS.

The founder of the Scouting Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, was born on the 22nd February 1857 and each year on the Sunday closet to the 22nd, scouts from around the world get together to celebrate BP's birthday. In KZN many BP Sunday celebrations were held which include a Scouts Own Service, fun activities and a time to reflect on and celebrate the life of BP. It would seem that this year was no exception as many groups around our province made this a fun event for their scouts and cubs.

BP Day celebrated with a fun Pirates day reports Pack scouter..

About 80 Cubs, Scouters and helpers from the Greater Durban District arrived at B-P Camp on Sunday 17 February with bandanas and eye patches on, all ready for a day of fun. Which it certainly turned out to be thanks to all the Pack Scouters & helpers. In the morning all the Cubs participated in a Tug of War competition, Water Balloon bomb tossing, a massive water fight with squeeze bottles - they got wet!!!! And of course we had to play "Hit the Decks".

After lunch the Cubs attended different bases, Slip and slide, Pirates commando course, which included walking the plank, Captain Hooks relay, and ran the gauntlet (being hit with wet sponges). For handcraft they made Pirate finger puppets, made a hook, and a scar for their face. At the end they all went for a treasure hunt around the camp. All the Cubs got changed into uniform and attended a short Service to remember the founder of the Scout Movement Lord Robert Baden Powel, with the parents.



One, two, three pull...tug of war, cub style



Ivan Richards, Azande Chamane and Jake Mileham completing the pirates commando course.



57th Trafalgar Pirates



Happy pirates of the Greater Durban /Endlovini District.



1st Hillcrest cubs and brownies in uniform at Winston Park Primary school.

CUBS GO TO SCHOOL IN UNIFORM.

The week nearest to BP's birthday Scouts in the upper Highway area scout groups get permission for their Cubs to go to school in their uniforms. The local schools all support this and read out during school assembly a short bit about Robert Baden-Powell and the reason why some students are in cub uniform. It's a great way to raise the profile of Scouting in your community and also a fantastic way to recruit new Cubs.

Kwazulu Natal BP Sunday at Midmar Dam



Trevor Wilson flanked by pipers march onto the parade ground playing Amazing Grace.



3rd Pietermaritzburg form up on parade with their traditional scout trek cart.



1st Kloof scouts lead the Boys Own service.



KZN Scouts, with their group flags on the banks of Midmar Dam shortly before the BP service.

With the amazing growth of the annual KZN Scout raft race, it makes sense to use this occasion to celebrate BP Sunday with a combined service early on the Sunday morning before the raft race gets underway. Against the back drop of the magnificent rolling midlands hills this is surely a most fitting venue to reflect on and celebrate the life of our founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell.

This year the service was led by 1st Kloof Scouts. With everyone lined up on the shore line of Midmar Dam in their uniform with their group flags gently flapping in the light breeze it was certainly a wonderful tribute to our Founder.

We had two pipers who were joined by scout drummer Trevor Wilson who got the service underway by walking into the centre of the parade playing Amazing Grace. 3rd Pietermaritzburg proudly joined the parade with their recently restored Scout trek cart, which attracted much interest from all the other Groups.

REJUVENATION OF SCOUTING ON THE BLUFF.

More good KZN Scouting news as 44th Durban opens on the Bluff. In its heyday Scouting on the Bluff was a force to be reckoned with the three large active groups. Sadly over time these groups closed and for many years Scouts living on the Bluff have travelled to groups in surrounding areas to continue with Scouting. This has all changed.

Under the initiative and leadership of Mike Lemmon, he managed to find a church hall to work from in establishing this new Scout Group. In March with 12 cubs and 10 Scouts he formally launched 44th Durban. From the KZN Scouting community we welcome you and 44th Durban into the Provincial Scouting family and wish you and your new group all the very best.

Scouting on the Bluff is now firmly back on the map. Bravo Mike!

DRESSING UP TO CELEBRATE BP'S BIRTHDAY

The formal dinner was held on Saturday 16th February for the first time in KZN to honour BP and celebrate the occasion of his birthday and 106 years of Scouting. This formal dinner was limited to 40 seats and open to all Pack and Troop Scouters, Districts Commissioners, Exco Members and Assistant Provincial Commissioners.

Tickets were sold out and it was wonderful to see everyone turn out in their formal dinner attire, scout uniform with medals while it was suits and tuxedos with medals for non uniform members. Hosted by the Principal commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg at his home it is hoped that this initiative of his will become an annual tradition.

With scrumptious food, good conversation flowing, it was a good time to reflect on the past years scouting successes in KZN and of course to celebrate the life of our founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Many thanks to the Kloppenborg family for all their hard work that went into making this a memorable occasion and for being such gracious hosts, Allison, Catherine, Chris and Clinton.



Dressed to celebrate the life of BP. Left to right, Steve Camp (Chairman KZN Scouts), Imelda Haarhoff (KZN Area Manager), Nigel Lewis Walker (APC Air Scouts), and Garth Kloppenborg (KZN Commissioner).

KZN SCOUTS GET AIRBORNE.

A parachute course for KwaZulu-Natal Scouts was recently held at the Durban Skydive Centre at Eston, outside of Pietermaritzburg. Each scout has to do five static line jumps to qualify for their scout parachute wings.

The KZN Assistant Provincial commissioner for Air Scouts, and organiser of the Scout parachute course, Nigel Lewis Walker travelled to 1st Hillcrest to present this very special award to 1st Hillcrest Assistant Troop Scouter, David Rees and 1st Hillcrest Patrol Leader, Devon Oosthuizen.

"Very few scouts throughout South Africa have their Scout wings, so you are part of an elite group who can wear Scout parachute wings on your uniform," said Walker as he pinned the Scout parachute wings onto Rees and Oosthuizen's uniforms.

"It was great fun," said Devon, "the experience you feel when you jump from the aircraft was awesome and something I'll never forget!" Another parachute course for the KwaZulu Natal Scouts is being planned for later in the year.

For enquiries please contact Nigel Lewis Walker -083 237 2692



Dave Rees (Left) and Devon Oosthuizen (right), with Nigel Lewis-Walker who presented the prestigious scout parachute wings.

RADIO AIRWAVES PROMOTES SCOUTING



Prean behind the microphone at Radio Hindvani.

On Wednesday 3rd April 2013 Patrol Leader Prean Naidoo of the 1st Malvern Troop was interviewed on Radio Hindvani about the troop's Environmental Projects and about Scouting in general.

Prean has recently completed his World Environment Badge and has been very involved in the Group's environmental projects. He hopes to follow a career in the environmental field. The interview was 12 minutes long and equates to an advertising value of R18 000.

He had many people phone in to ask questions which helped to let people know that Scouting in KZN is alive and well. Bravo Prean!

KZN LEADERS PRESENTED WITH WOOD BADGES

Wood Badge is a Scouting leadership program and the related award for adult leaders in the programs of Scout associations throughout the world. Wood Badge courses aim to make Scouters better leaders by teaching advanced leadership skills, and by creating a bond and commitment to the Scout movement. Courses generally have a combined classroom and practical outdoors-based phase.

On completion of the course, participants are awarded the Wood Badge beads to recognize significant achievement in leadership and direct service to young people. The pair of small wooden beads, one on each end of a leather thong (string), is worn around the neck as part of the Scout uniform. The beads are presented together with a scarf bearing a tartan patch of the Maclaren clan.

It was with great excitement that 86 wood badges were awarded to adult leaders from the school based groups at Lexden in February. The award ceremony was well attended from Scouters across the province as they formed up on parade to receive their wood badge by Goodenough Dlamini. From everyone in KZN a hearty congratulations on your wonderful achievements.

Forming up on parade at Lexden.



Goodenough Dlamini assisted by Mondli Dlamini presenting the Wood badge and Gilwill scarf.



Proud new wood badge holders pose for a group photograph.



A well deserved congratulations all round.



Goodenough addresses the new wood badge recipients.

FUN PACK MEETING AT THE BEACH



Waiting for the big wave to come... Yes, they got wet!!



4th Durban Cubs - having a fun pack meeting on the beach is just so cool.



Nqubeko Mtoba, Conner Kruger (his first Pack meeting) Ntwenhle Hadede and Ethan Kruger got together to make a sandcastle.

4th Durban Cubs descended on Durban beach front for a Pack meeting on 8 February. No buckets and spades were allowed, they had to get down and sandy! Which they did building sandcastles, making holes and trenches. They had so much fun.

Even the Cub Instructors St. John Giddy and Tulsson Healey made a massive sand castle.

Springbok badge for dedicated Stuart

1st Hillcrest patrol leader, Stuart Demmer was recently awarded the Springbok Scout award, which is Scouting South Africa's highest honour.

"It was a long, hard journey, but nonetheless fun, giving me many amazing opportunities," said Stuart. "The Springbok award is a summary of all the incredible things that I have been involved in through scouting". Presenting the Springbok badge, Highway District Commissioner Steve Thorne said: "This award is all the more special as less than five percent of scouts achieve their Springbok."

Stuart is the 85th 1st Hillcrest Scout to achieve his Springbok award since the Group was formed in 1958.



Steve Thorne, Highway District Commissioner presents Patrol leader, Stuart Demmer with his Springbok badge.

GREENING AREA HEAD QUARTERS

On 1 February ten 4th Durban Lion Cubs completed their Leaping Wolf requirement "Greening our Community". They decided to do this at the Kwazulu Natal Scout Head Quarters.

During the weeks leading up to this activity the Cubs collected about 28 indigenous plants from home and friends gardens or some bought them from nurseries. They replanted them into growing bags ready for the planting at the Scout Head Quarters. Thanks must go to Imelda Haarhoff (Area Secretary) for assisting the Cubs and Judy Elderton (4th Durban (St. Thomas) Pack Scouter).



Scout Headquarters has also been receiving some tender loving care from horticulturists and landscaper Helen Lewis (1st Hillcrest Pack Scouter). Last year Helen arrived at the Provincial HQ with a bakkie load of indigenous plants and got stuck in with her team, planting these sturdy plants along the banks.

Helen has since arrived with a few more bakkie loads and what a difference this has made to beautifying our lovely HQ. Bravo Helen and the 4th Durban cubs!

4th Durban cubs bring life to the area head quarters flag pole with a newly created garden.

NEWCASTLE SCOUTS SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE HARRIERS MARATHON

it was an early morning start in the dark and cold for the Cubs, Scouts and Committee members of the 3rd Newcastle Scout Group on the 16th February 2013, as we prepared for the runners passing our table on the outskirts of Newcastle. There was a wonderful atmosphere building as we saw the runners coming up the hill towards us, the Cubs and Scouts vying for the best position to give the runners their water and power drinks. Rain looming on the horizon could not even dampen our spirits and the coffee and tea kept everyone warm. Our "gees" that morning earned us 3rd place for the water table. Well done to everyone who helped with the Harriers marathon!

Handing out the water and power drinks to the runners



Waiting for the last runner to pass.



3rd Newcastle Scout Group with our medals and trophy from the Marathon



Happy gathering of past 1st Hillcrest adult leaders

Past 1st Hillcrest Scouters still meeting 40 years on!

"The mid seventies through to the late eighties, was a time in our lives when Scouting was a very big part of all our family lives, Scouting was strong across the province and 1st Hillcrest was a very active scouting group," said Mary Botha." All of us who were involved as adult leaders were dedicated and hard working. The men helped with the building of the "new" 1st Hillcrest Hall (1976) over weekends and had great fun doing it. 1st Hillcrest had three Cub Packs, two large Troops and a Venture section."

"We all got on very well and to this day, some 40 years later, we have all remained firm friends who meet once a month and get together for tea on each other's birthday's. Our 40 year friendship is something very special which all started at 1st Hillcrest. Isn't Scouting great!", said Mary!

The former 1st Hillcrest Scouters met in February at the 1st Hillcrest scout hall for a special braai to say farewell to 1st Hillcrest stalwart Robin Friedemann (was awarded his 40 year good service to Scouting in 2009) who after 60 years of living in the highway area moved to Kakistad to live with his son Douglas and his family. The Scout hall is named the Robin and Dorothy Friedemann Hall, after their lifetime commitment to 1st Hillcrest Scout Group.

KZN SCOUTS HAVE RAFTS OF FUN



Raft race organiser, Kevin Macqueen presents the trophy for the best constructed raft to 1st Hillcrest cubs.



Cubs stand proudly alongside the constructed raft eagerly await starters instructions.



Young cubs get a chance to participate in the raft race during the tube event.....



Competition is fierce amongst the scouts who vie for first place.

Midmar Dam came alive on Sunday morning, 17 February with over 1 500 people involved in this annual KZN scouting event. Scouts and Cubs from all over KZN turned up to compete in this event which was the largest one in many years. The Scouts and Cubs have to construct their rafts from scratch using bamboo, tyre tubes all lashed together in a design they reckon will be the most streamlined to help them win the race. They compete in events throughout the morning. Chief organiser, Kevin Macqueen, said, " This event now in its 13th year just keeps growing. It's fantastic to see so many families sleeping over making this a camping weekend with their scout groups."

Steve Thorne, Highway District Commissioner and master of ceremonies for the event said. "It's always a great weekend of fun for the participants and a lovely days outing for a very large group of family and friends who turn up on the day as spectators, and of course it's a magnificent advertisement for scouting in our province."

Well done to 1st New Germany and all the many helpers on organising another resounding successful raft race!



Hundreds of family and friends line the banks shouting words of encouragement to their teams.



The winning team who have been together since 2002; its largely through their hard, dedicated work that makes this event such a success . Not in the photo is event organiser Kevin Macqueen, who was too busy organising to pose for a pic!



While the older cubs compete on their rafts.

HIGHWAY SWIMMING GALA.



Highway scouts about to dive off in a 100 meter freestyle event.



Family and friends voice their enthusiastic support at the annual Highway district gala.

The annual highway district gala is always a fun yet competitive evening of inter group swimming events. These range from the cub relays to keep a cardboard toilet role dry, the inflated tube race, the scout medleys and individual events and the highlight of the evening...the adult leaders race of course!

"This event just keeps growing," said Steve Thorne, Highway District commissioner. "This year we had over 600 people (400 last year) who went through the gates, which is a wonderful sign that scouting in the highway area is alive and well."



Highway Rover Crew helped to run the gala. From left to right: Telise Cousins, Amy Topper, Paul Murdoch and Megan McQuilliam.

SCOUTING AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES PRESENTED ON BP SUNDAY PARADE



Cubs being presented with their Leaping Wolf certificates



Scouts having been presented their Springbok Scout certificates are, left to right, Richard Matthias, Murray Brown, Andrew Phyfer, Jason Smuts and Anna Talbot with Garth Kloppenborg, Provincial Commissioner.

Congratulations to all Scouters, Scouts, Cubs and non uniform members who were presented with certificates, medals, leaping wolf and springbok certificates. These were presented directly after the BP Sunday service parade by the Provincial Commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg.



1st Umbogintwini cub, Shreya Beekum with her Akela (Lynda Thurman) proudly holds her Leaping Wolf certificate. Shreya had moved on and left 1st Umbogintwini, due to her parents moving to Durban North, however, this young lady wanted to finish her Cubing year with her Pack and travelled every Friday from Durban North to her Den in Umbogavana Nature Reserve to be with her Pack. Now that is going to be one good leader one day.

109 TH PLTU A SUCCESS



A tiered but happy group photo of course 109.

A Zulu Patrol Leaders Training Unit course was held at Lexden over the December holidays. It was well supported with four patrols. Mondli Dlamini was the Course Director and was pleased by the standard of training that took place”.

It is always a challenge to ensure that as the Course Director the standards are met and that each participant leaves having gained valuable experience about being a good, capable leader. It’s important that these participants add value to their groups when they get back and impart the leadership knowledge and skills they have learnt at PLTU”, he said.



Don't give up you've been to Lexden, you're a stout fella...participants during their hike.

TRAINING TEAM BIDS LORNA FAREWELL



Early this year, former KZN area manager, Lorna Newman was hosted by the area training team and presented with a number of gifts in recognition of her services to the training team.

“I feel very humbled by these wonderful presents,” said Lorna.” They will always be reminders to me of the many happy times I have had in scouts while in KwaZulu Natal, and all the scouting friends I have made here”. We all wish Lorna all the best who will be moving from Durban to live with her daughter in Cape Town.

GONE HOME

Lee McQueen, father of Kevin McQueen (Chairman of 1st New Germany and Highway District), passed away on 10 May at the age of 83. Lee was associated with the Cowies Hill Air Scout Group for more years than we care to remember and was the chairman of the group and then GSM, though his influence spread wider than Cowies Hill as he was active on the Highway scouting committees as well. He was part of the travelling management team to the world Scout Jamboree in Switzerland in 1979. (The jamboree was planned for Iran, but cancelled due to political instability of that country) Lee was always a dedicated scout person with amazing powers of observation, - no-one could pull the wool over his eyes in the formal meetings or even more in the bush and on adventures.

Petros Cain had worked in the Provincial head quarters since July 1984. Petros was our cleaner and general helper who quietly worked in the background setting up rooms for meetings, clearing cups after Provincial Meetings and generally keeping the HQ in a neat and orderly manner. He passed away very unexpectedly on 24 April. Petrus was awarded a merit certificate for loyal and faithful service at the 2012 Provincial Scouters Council.

NEW ERA FOR BP CAMP

Construction on a new double story hostel got underway at BP Camp on 12 June. This is part of a two million and six hundred thousand Rand upgrade that will see BP Camp with a new facilities to accommodate 60 people in a hostel type accommodation and a new training centre.

This has been funded through the kind dedicated work of a German Rover crew who have undertaken a number of fundraising initiatives in Germany. This has been organised through the hard work of German Rovers husband and wife, Dorothee and Michael Boecker.

The whole project started when first Dorothee came to visit at the Scout Shop in 2003 and met up with Mike Rickson. They took to each other and Dorothee then went to stay at BP Camp whenever she had the time.

The following year Michael came with Dorothee and they and Mike

sat down for ages and discussed how they could help scouting and Mike told them of his dream of BP Camp having facilities that were suitable not only for adult training but to bring more cubs and scouts to the camps where Scouters do not have to drag tons of equipment with them. Vernon Farr also became involved especially as Mike's health failed and between them they spent many hours talking to Michael and Dorothee on what was needed.

Vernon has visited the German Rover Crew a couple of times including last year to update them on the progress.

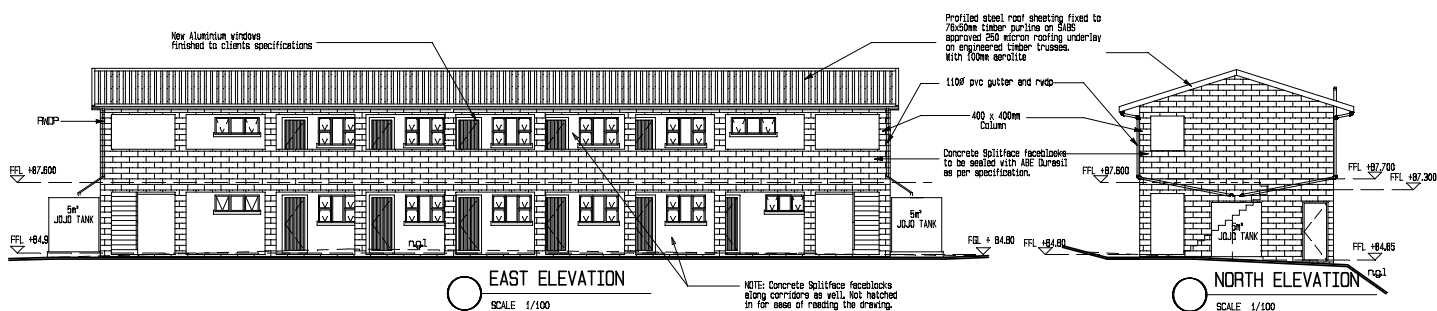
Michael and Dorothee went away with the ideas and a couple of years later came back with the idea of putting up a dormitory building etc with assistance from the German Rover Crew and other funding that they are able to access. Since then the plans have been drawn. They were advised right from the beginning that it would take some time to get off the ground because of BP Camp being a nature reserve and

strict controls by the Council. While they have been waiting for all the plans to be passed they have dealt with the renovation of an old church building and equipping of an orphanage at Bamshela and also funding a hospice with the assistance of the Catholic Church in that area.

They have also gone out of their way on these two projects to get involved with various Government departments and the Police in the area have also done a lot of work at the orphanage.

From everyone at KZN Scouts we say a very BIG thank you for your generous efforts in funding this BP Camp upgrade that will take KZN scouting into the future with excellent facilities that will be well used by scouts and adult leaders alike as scouting in this province continues to grow from strength to strength.

Below are the plans for the hostel. The training room plans will be in the next edition of the KZN Scout Trail. The project will be completed by March 2014.



With the foundations dug, it's now full steam ahead for our new hostel!

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**Edited for the
KwaZulu-Natal Scout Head Quarters
by: Steve Camp
Telephone: 079 391 1866
E-mail: stevecamp@vodamail.co.za**

**Layout and design by Cameron Belling
Telephone: 072 204 2477
E-mail: cameron@sigmacrew.com**

**For further information contact:
THE KWAZULU-NATAL SCOUT HEAD QUARTERS
19 Earl Haig Road, Rose Glen, Durban
Telephone: 031 207 5738 or 031 207 8793
Fax: 031 207 7057
Email: kzn@scouting.org.za
www.kznscouts.co.za**